

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA AND TASS ON RL-RFE AND CIA

REF: MOSCOW 2444

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA AND TASS ON FEBRUARY 22 UNLEASHED NEW
ATTACKS ON CIA AND RL-RFE AS "ENEMIES OF DETENTE." USUAL
CHARGES AGAINST CIA UPDATED BY ALLEGED USE OF INTERNATIONAL
MEDIA OUTLETS, AND SUPPORT OF REGIMES "WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE SUPPRESSED;" RL-RFE ARE RIDICULED FOR CLAIMING TO
SUPPORT "HUMAN RIGHTS" IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."
END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S FEBRUARY 22 COMMENTATOR COLUMN BY VLADIMIR
BOL'SHAKOV ATTACKS "RADIO SABOTEURS" RL AND RFE, WHO, LIKE
LOBBYISTS FOR THE US MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, USE LIES
ABOUT A "SOVIET THREAT" TO JUSTIFY INCREASED BUDGETS
FOR THEIR OPERATIONS.

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3. PRAVDA SAYS IT IS "COMMON KNOWLEDGE" THAT THESE
RADIOS ARE "SUBVERSIVE, SPYING CENTERS OF THE CIA,"
WHICH SPECIALIZE IN "IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION AGAINST
THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." IN SPIE OF AN ALLEGED 70
MILLION DOLLARS DEVOTED TO BRANCHES OF CIA SUPPORTING
SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE RL AND RFE LEADERS "JUST LIKE THE
US MILITARY, DEMAND AN ADDITIONAL 10 MILLION DOLLARS

TO INCREASE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

4. PRAVDA RAILS THAT SUCH A CLAIM IS "ABSURD" FOR
STATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CALLED "CREATIONS OF THE
COLD WAR" BY THE US CONGRESS AND "SEMI-FASCIST" BY
THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL.
"INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IS WELL AWARE," SAYS
PRAVDA, THAT RL AND RFE ARE ENGAGED IN WIRETAPPING,
COOPERATION WITH OTHER SPY ORGANIZATIONS GATHERING
INFORMATION ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND TRANS-
FERRING MONEY TO "DISSIDENTS" WHO IN TURN PROVIDE THE
STATIONS WITH "SLANDEROUS INFORMATION." THE ACTIVITIES
OF RL AND RFE ARE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE HELSINKI
AGREEMENTS, CONCLUDES PRAVDA, AND "IT IS HIGH TIME
THESE ACTIVITIES WERE BROUGHT TO AN END."

5. TASS REPEATS THIS PRAVDA ARTICLE AND CONTRIBUTES
ANOTHER ATTACKING CIA'S USE OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA. A
TASS ITEM FROM SAN FRANCISCO CITES L.A. TIMES ARTICLE
BY JOHN MARKS OF THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
STUDIES. MARKS CALLS FOR "RADICAL REFORMS" OF THE CIA
AND INSISTS IT "STOP PROPAGANDA CONDUCTED WITH THE HELP
OF 200 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, 25 PUBLISHING HOUSES,
30 NEWS AGENCIES AND 20 RADIO AND TV STATIONS ALL OVER
THE WORLD." "THE AUTHOR ALSO FAVORS ENDING SUPPORT TO
SECRET SERVICES OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE SUPPRESSED," SAYS TASS, QUOTING MARKS TO THE EFFECT
THAT "CIA COERT OPERATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES -- ARE
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ILLEGAL BECAUSE THE UN ANDOAS CHARTERS FORBID INTER-
FERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

6. COMMENT: MUCH IN THESE ATTACKS IS SAME OLD LINE
WHICH SOVIETS HAVE BEEN THROWING AT CIA AND RF-RFE FOR
YEARS. THERE IS AN OMINOUS NEW TWIST IN THE LINKAGE OF
RF-RFE WITH PAYMENTS TO SOVIET DISSIDENTS FOR WHICH THEY
IN RETURN SUPPLY STATIONS WITH INFORMATION. WHILE THIS
HAS ONLY SLIGHT IMPACT ON RF-RFE, IT HAS NASTY IMPLICA-
TIONS THAT DISSIDENTS ARE PAID SPIES OF WEST. NUMBER
AND SHRILLNESS OF ARTICLES WITH REFERENCES TO LACK OF
"HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THE WEST ARE GROWING MORE COMMON.
TOON

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